

28 June 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Support Assistant/DDS

SUBJECT : Kidnap Ransom Insurance

1. The Department of State Security Section has recently learned that two embassies in Europe have been approached by insurance representatives of Lloyd's of London offering insurance against kidnapping and ransom demands.

2. State acknowledges that purchase of insurance is a personal expense. However, they are of the opinion that "kidnap insurance" may serve as an incentive for kidnappers with a need of cash as well as political motives. Thus it could be counterproductive. Accordingly State wants to try dissuasion. State has drafted the attached note for all diplomatic and consular posts. They have asked for coordination from the Agency as well as AID, DIA, and USIA.

3. State has made some good points but I'm inclined to permit each individual to make up his own mind about the desirability of such insurance. On balance I do not think the Agency should endorse State's attempt at dissuasion.

4. I would appreciate any thoughts you care to give me on this as well as those of the Support Officers.



Chief, Special Security Unit, DDS

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Attachment

CONFIDENTIAL